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Carl R. Schwartz, Reg. No. 29,437

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Steven B. Mineau et al. Applicants:

Serial No.:

Filed:

March 26, 2004

For:

DETACHABLE TUBE ASSEMBLY

Commissioner For Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97-1.98, Applicants are submitting herewith a list of documents on form PTO-1449. A copy of each listed document is enclosed.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

No fee is believed necessary for the consideration of this information disclosure statement. However, if one is please charge that fee to Deposit Account 17-0055.

Applicants respectfully request that the listed documents be considered by the Examiner, be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP § 609.

Respectfully submitted,

STEVEN B. MINEAU ET AL.

Dated: March 29, 2004

Ву:

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

Complete if Known				
Application Number				
Filing Date	March 29, 2004			
First Named Inventor	Steven B. Mineau			
Art Unit				
Examiner Name				
Attorney Docket Number	J-4000			

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.1	Document Number Number-Kind Code ² (# known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		^{US-} 2,815,522	12/10/57	Hexter	
		^{US-} 3,791,624	02/12/74	Payson	
		^{US-} 6,155,741	12/05/00	Took	
		^{US-} 6,213,677	04/10/01	Yamane, et al.	
		^{US-} 6,540,424	04/01/03	Hall, et al.	
		^{US-} 2001/0010778	08/02/01	Hilton, et al.	
		^{US-} 2003/0053846	03/20/03	Kopanic, et al.	
		^{US-} 2003/0235463	12/25/03	Neumann, et al.	
		US-			
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	FOREIG	GN PATENT DOCU	MENTS	•	
Cite No.1	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date	Name of Patentee or	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages	
	Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	MM-DD-YYYY		Or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
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		Cite Foreign Patent Document	Cite Foreign Patent Document Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	No.¹ Date Applicant of Cited Document	Cite Foreign Patent Document Publication Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document Where Relevant Passages Of Relevant Floures Appear

Examiner		Date		
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. ¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language

Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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